

SBSC Highlights June 12-16, 2006

GCMRC Research Associate Presents to 6th Graders: Tim Andrews, GCMRC research associate, presented an overview of GCMRC scientific activities in Grand Canyon to sixth-graders at Sechrist Elementary School in Flagstaff, AZ on June 6th. The students spent part of the semester studying Grand Canyon through literature, a day-long hiking trip, and a river trip from Glen Canyon Dam to Lee's Ferry. Mr. Andrews discussed the types of activities scientists perform as Grand Canyon researchers, as well as some of the major research and monitoring findings from 1991-2004. Students also received a hands-on GIS demonstration and an internet mapping presentation. Contact: Tim Andrews, Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Station, tandrews@usgs.gov

GCMRC Doctorate Makes the Grade: On June 6, Dr. Theodore Alan Kennedy received recommendation from a Research Grade Evaluation Panel to be classified and retained as a 4-factor scientist. Kennedy recently began field research as the PI of a project which aims to develop protocols for monitoring food availability for fish in Colorado River ecosystems affected by Glen Canyon Dam operations. Kennedy will be responsible for conducting research on aquatic ecology, trophic interactions, primary and secondary production, food web structures and organic matter budgets. Contact: Ted Kennedy, Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center, tkennedy@usgs.gov

Alligators, Lions and Bears Oh My!: USGS wildlife researcher David Mattson was contacted by Ann Keane-Ross of ABC News for background information on a news story about predators within the urban-wildland interface. The story will feature alligators, black and grizzly bears, mountain lions, and coyotes. Mattson provided statistics on numbers of injuries and deaths caused by mountain lions and the two bear species, as well as information on basic ecology and how to manage problematic encounters to reduce odds of human injury. Contact: David Mattson, Southwest Biological Science Center, 928-556-7466 ext 245, David.Mattson@usgs.gov

SBSC Researcher Cooperates with NASA: Colorado Plateau Research Station researcher and Northern Arizona University doctoral candidate Jut Wynne will be working in Chile's Atacama Desert alongside NASA scientists looking for subterranean life forms from June 17 through July 2, 2006. Little evidence of above-ground life has been found in the Atacama Desert, world's driest desert, and Wynne will investigate caves in the study area for signs of life as well as to scout and identify caves for phase 2 of the Earth-Mars cave detection study. For more information: <http://quest.nasa.gov/projects/spacewardbound/atacama/> Contact: Jut Wynne, Colorado Plateau Research Station, 928-556-7466 ext 238, jut.wynne@nau.edu

SBSC Scientists Advises Arizona Highways Magazine: Kenneth Cole, Colorado Plateau Research Station scientist, was contacted by Arizona Highways Magazine to act as a scientific consultant on a children's book titled "Zachary Z, Packrat." Cole's more than thirty years of packrat research makes him an authority on the subject. Contact: Kenneth Cole, Colorado Plateau Research Station, 928-556-7466 ext 230, ken_cole@usgs.gov

